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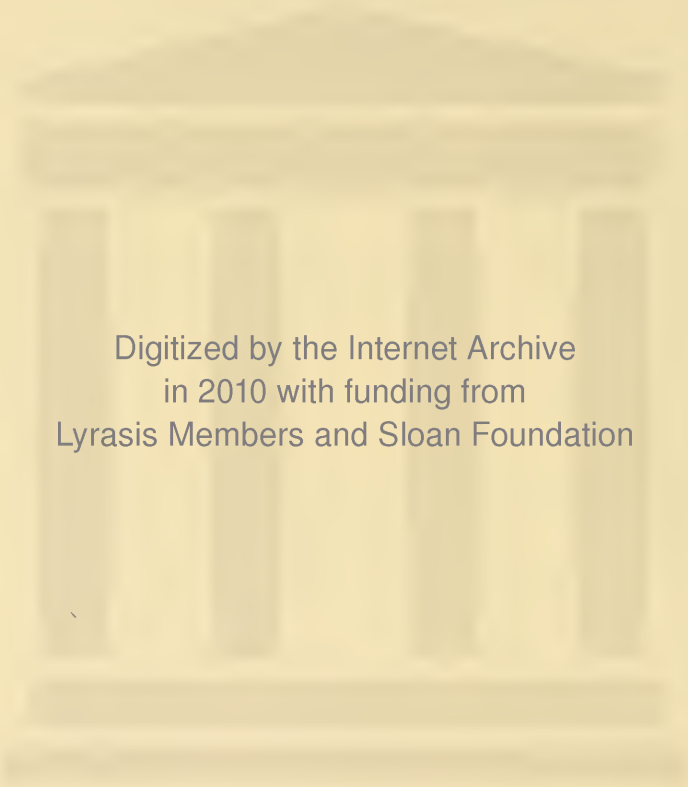
KEEPING POSTED ON
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Home Area Campaign Reaches \$105,444

Contributions totaling \$105,444 have been reported at the mid-point of Presbyterian College's Diamond Jubilee Development Program within the home area of Laurens and Newberry counties.

This total was registered at the second report meeting held in the PC dining hall on November 29. It represents just under one-half of the goal of \$250,000 set for Region One. Two other report meetings are scheduled before the home area campaign closes on December 12.

Presbyterian College is launched upon a long-range development program for \$2,000,000 which seeks \$750,000 within the two controlling Synods of Georgia and South Carolina the first year.

Thus far, Region One organization workers have solicited \$52,722, which has been matched dollar-for-dollar by an anonymous gift ranging up to \$75,000. There remains \$22,278 yet to be claimed from this large donation by matching it with general solicitations from the area.

Dr. Brown Reappointed

Presbyterian President Marshall W. Brown has been reappointed to represent South Carolina on the executive committee of the Southern Regional Education Board.

He has held this position since the Board was founded in 1950 as a regional compact of 14 Southern states through which to secure cooperation of all members in making the most effective

COLLEGE RECEIVES GIFT OF \$75,000

One of the largest single gifts in the history of Presbyterian College has been announced by President Marshall W. Brown.

It is an anonymous donation of \$75,000 to the Diamond Jubilee Development Program, presented on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis to be claimed as funds are raised from other sources in the home area campaign.

President Brown said that he was permitted only to disclose that the generous offer was made by a Clinton family.

Thus far in the home area drive, a total of \$52,722 of the \$75,000 has been claimed for PC through matching solicitations. There remains \$22,278 yet to be claimed.

tive utilization of higher educational facilities.

Dr. Brown's appointment for 1955-56 was made by Gov. LeRoy Collins of Florida, who serves as Board chairman. His appointment last year came through Gov. Frank Clements of Tennessee.

PC Robed Choir Gains Wide Acclaim

"One of the five best non-professional male choirs we have recorded," commented the representative of a national recording company.

He spoke of the Presbyterian College robed choir, which is recognized among the top collegiate singing organizations in the South.

This group of voices, ranging between 24 and 32 in number, has carried year after year its ringing message of sacred music to church congregations in nine states and the national capital.

Hundreds of thousands of persons have listened to concerts by the PC choir during the past eight years as it traveled some 40,000 miles through South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Washington, D. C. But primarily it has given its services to Presbyterians of Georgia and South Carolina, with 70 per cent of the programs rendered in these two states.

The group has presented three programs on the national radio series "Great Glee Clubs of America".

Leading the choir to its distinct position has been the work of Dr. Edouard Patte, whose background includes training in some of the music centers of Europe. Throughout his eight years as director, he has sought to achieve two objectives: to interpret the most genuine choral music of the best periods, and to bring to church audiences a significant program in song and word announcing the Christian faith.

This attempt to illustrate in music some of the main themes of Christian faith has been achieved through the grouping of appropriate choral renderings, prayers and Bible readings in programs which have carried such titles as: "The Apostle's Creed", "The Lord's Prayer", "The Story of Jesus", "The Word of God", "The Living Church", and "The Beatitudes"

One program is developed for each concert season, built around a central religious theme for presentation to church audiences as an hour of sacred music and worship. It is designed as both a musical event and a spiritual message. Dr. Patte explains further:

"Our idea is to bring to the churches of our synods some of the most representative music of our Christian tradition in a distinctly religious setting. We also offer some little known pieces of sacred music from the greatest areas of Western culture, the 16th and 17th centuries. Among these pieces will be found old anthems, difficult polyphonic motets, counterpoint pieces and chorales. In addition, the choir tries to interpret some of the most genuine folk music found in Negro spirituals."

This is the pattern Director Patte has followed in 352 previous concerts of the Presbyterian College choir. As the group sings its way into the 1955-56 concert season, it unfolds its musical theme "The Christian Gloria" developed around 11 selections.

This program will be presented in 28 concert appearances during the 1955-56 season. The schedule includes a fall tour of Georgia early in December, a spring tour into Florida and numerous weekend performances throughout South Carolina.

When the Presbyterian choir sings, it becomes like a single instrument upon which the conductor plays. For concerts, the choir uses the "quartet formation" instead of the "voice section formation" as employed by most choirs. This "quartet formation"—in which each singer stands beside one singing a different part—is considered



delicate to handle, but it assures a more complete blending of voices.

Also contributing to the unusual degree of unity is the practice of training all sections together instead of separately. Then, as soon as possible, scores are committed to memory so that neither conductor nor singers need use music during concerts.

The ambitious program which the choir undertakes requires high standards of performance, rigid discipline and hard work. Candidates are accepted as members only after intensive tests for vocal talent, pitch, rhythm and memory.

Although the practice sessions are numerous and the concerts many, members of the choir find time to stand consistently among the campus leaders academically and in extra-curricular activities. For example, every choir president has been on the Dean's List. And in the past two years alone, the two editors of the student newspaper and the college yearbook, both presidents of the Student Christian Association and two ROTC battalion commanders have all been students who also sang with the choir.

Among the alumni members of the choir, 40 percent are now in the ministry or studying in seminaries.

On tours and overnight stops, choir members are entertained in homes of the community. And in response to this hospitality, each member upon return writes a personal "thank-you-note" on note paper carrying a picture of the choir.

Among the "traditions" of the group is the assembly just before each concert for prayer. The conductor intones a traditional spiritual and the choristers sing refrain. Then they enter the sanctuary in two-by-two processional, in robes of black and royal blue, followed by the conductor in academic robe with hood.

Then the program begins, and as the resonant splendour of the male voices lifts the audience aloft, the Presbyterian College robed choir gives to its church and to its school a spiritual enrichment beyond measure.

Meet the Faculty

Edouard Patte, Choir Director and Professor

Dr. Edouard Patte, talented director of the Presbyterian College robed choir and professor of sociology, is the driving force behind the choir's rise to musical prominence throughout the South.

A perfectionist in this field, he combines a thorough knowledge of choral work with high standards of performance and his own personal enthusiasm. The result is a group of singers which has brought wide acclaim and which each season offers a real service to its church and college.

Dr. Patte, beginning his ninth season with the choir, has directed this organization in 352 concerts before audiences ranging from our largest congregations to our smallest rural churches.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, Dr. Patte came to Presbyterian College in 1947 from the pulpit of the North Augusta (S. C.) Presbyterian Church, a church he helped to establish. Prior to that, he had spent a number of years with the International YMCA.

The PC director is a native of Geneva, Switzerland, but he and his wife became naturalized citizens of the United States in 1950. He was educated at the College de Calvin, the University of Geneva and the American Bible College, and his degrees include B.A. Litt.B., Th.M., Th.D. and Licence en Sociologie. He received his musical training at the Geneva Conservatory of Music and Geneva's Saint Peter's Cathedral.

Dr. Patte is married to the former Miss Aymme de Seigneux of Geneva. They have one son, who is now a senior at Presbyterian College.

"Keeping Posted on Presbyterian College" is sent without charge to persons interested in PC or in the work of independent church-related colleges generally. Anyone who wishes to be added to the mailing list or to comment on matters discussed within the bulletin should address the Department of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs.

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